



BLACK BOLT™

#3

*"Feels like something
really, really special."*

- Geek.com



MARVEL

**SALADIN AHMED
CHRISTIAN WARD**



is the king of the Inhumans, an off-splinter of humanity imbued with amazing abilities. But these gifts sometimes come with a price: Black Bolt's slightest whisper can shatter mountains. His voice has destroyed many lives, but it has saved countless others.

When the Silent King speaks, the world hears him.

But now no one can hear him. Black Bolt finds himself trapped in a strange alien prison. His treacherous brother, Maximus the Mad, was meant to be the one imprisoned here, but he used his psychic powers and image-altering technology to send Black Bolt in his place. A deranged, incalculably powerful being known only as the Jailer suppresses the inmates' natural abilities and, with help from the sycophantic prisoner Spyder, tortures them until they die—then resurrects them to face their crimes again and again.

But Black Bolt's fellow prisoners Metal Master, the Absorbing Man, Raava and Blinky have a plan. And they just blew a hole through Black Bolt's cell wall.

Writer
SALADIN AHMED

Artist & Cover Art
CHRISTIAN WARD

Letterer
VC's CLAYTON COWLES

Variant Cover Art
JOE QUINONES

Design
NICHOLAS RUSSELL

Logo Design
JAY BOWEN

Assistant Editor
CHARLES BEACHAM

Associate Editor
SARAH BRUNSTAD

Editor
WIL MOSS

Executive Editor
TOM BREVOORT

Editor in Chief
AXEL ALONSO

Chief Creative Officer
JOE QUESADA

President
DAN BUCKLEY

Executive Producer
ALAN FINE

BLACK BOLT created by
STAN LEE & JACK KIRBY

BLACK BOLT, THE MIDNIGHT KING, HAS BEEN A MONARCH AND A DESTROYER. A HERO AND A WEAPON. MOST RECENTLY, HE HAS BEEN A PRISONER.

UNTIL NOW.

YES! RAAVA IS FREE! RAAVA IS ARMED! LET THE MEN OF LAWS AND CAGES TREMBLE!

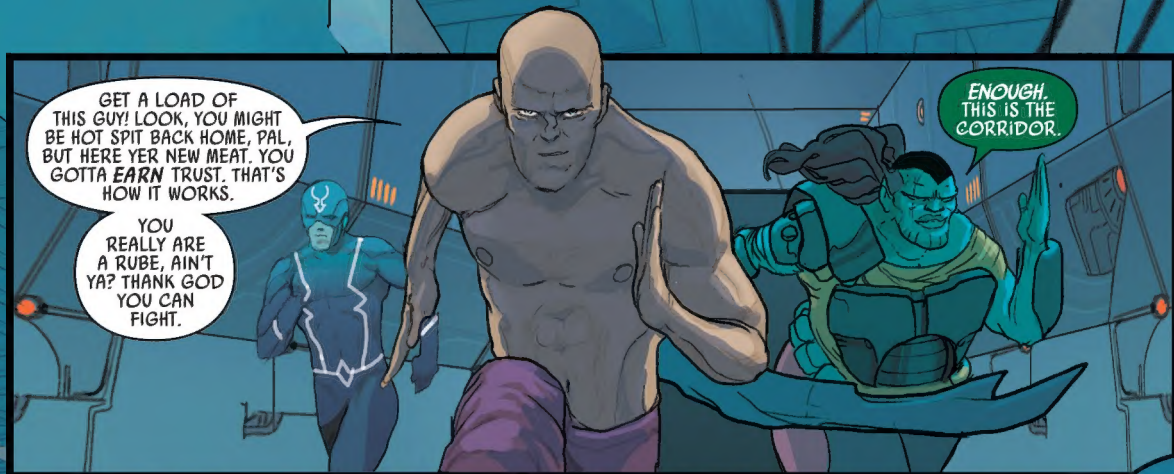
KNOW WHAT I LIKE ABOUT YOU, LADY? YOU'RE **MOTIVATIONAL**. BLINKY AND METAL MASTER ARE DOWN THIS WAY. LET'S GO.

I SAID LET'S GO, WISHBONE!

DO NOT PRESUME TO COMMAND ME, **CRUSHER CREEE**. WHAT IS YOUR PLAN? WHY DID YOU NOT WARN ME?

'CUZ THIS WAY YOU AIN'T GOT TIME TO GET COLD FEET. OR TO **SNITCH**. YOU DON'T **SEEM** LIKE A **SNITCH**, BUT YOU NEVER KNOW...NOW COME ON, YER **MAJESTY**.

I DO NOT LIKE BEING TOYED WITH, **CRUSHER CREEE**. FROM THIS POINT FORTH, YOU WILL KEEP ME INFORMED.



GET A LOAD OF THIS GUY! LOOK, YOU MIGHT BE HOT SPIT BACK HOME, PAL, BUT HERE YER NEW MEAT. YOU GOTTA **EARN** TRUST. THAT'S HOW IT WORKS.

YOU REALLY ARE A RUBE, AIN'T YA? THANK GOD YOU CAN FIGHT.

ENOUGH. THIS IS THE CORRIDOR.

HOW CAN YOU KNOW ONE HALL FROM ANOTHER HERE? THE WALLS SHIFT AND THE FLOORS WARP IN THIS CURSED PLACE UNTIL YOU CANNOT TELL UP FROM DOWN.

YOU CANNOT TELL UP FROM DOWN, SKINNY ONE. RAAVA HAS FLOWN SHIPS BLIND THROUGH THE POISON STORMS OF VOKKORRA-4. SHE HAS FLOWN THE GOD-MAZES OF YALG WITH A CAPTOR'S BAG OVER HER HEAD. SHE *ALWAYS* KNOWS WHICH WAY SHE WALKS.

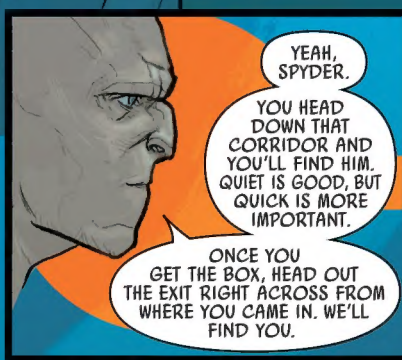
LISTEN UP, WISHBONE. METAL MASTER AND BLINKY, THEY FOUND A WAY TO BLIND THE JAILER FOR A FEW MINUTES. HE CAN'T REACH US RIGHT NOW.

IF WE SPRING THE KID AND THE OLD MAN AND GET OUR POWERS BACK, WE GOT A CHANCE. RAAVA'S THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN FIND THEM, AND SHE'S GONNA NEED MY HELP TO GET PAST SOME OF THE TRAPS.

WHICH MEANS YOU GOTTA GET THE DEVICE THAT SHOULD KILL THIS PLACE'S POWER DAMPENERS. BUT YOU GOTTA GET IT FROM...



SPYDER.



YEAH, SPYDER.

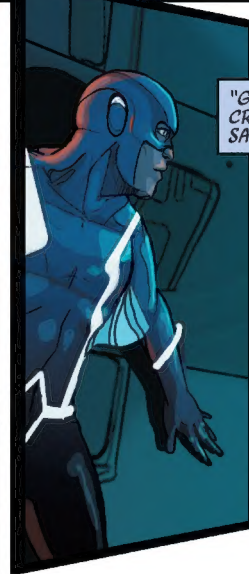
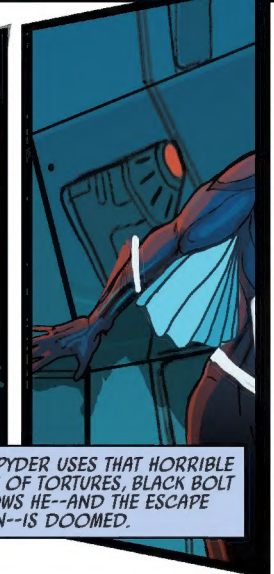
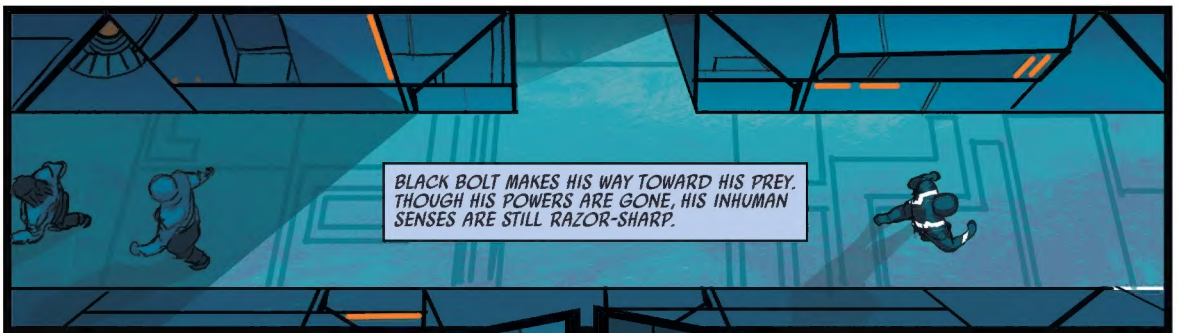
YOU HEAD DOWN THAT CORRIDOR AND YOU'LL FIND HIM. QUIET IS GOOD, BUT QUICK IS MORE IMPORTANT.

ONCE YOU GET THE BOX, HEAD OUT THE EXIT RIGHT ACROSS FROM WHERE YOU CAME IN. WE'LL FIND YOU.



AND WISHBONE?

MY NAME IS NOT--





EVERYTHING
APPEARS TO BE IN
ORDER.

DRONES
ARE ESCORTING
PRISONER "**MONSTEROSO**"
TO CONTAINMENT. HE'LL NOT
HARM ANYONE AGAIN. BUT HE WILL BE
PROVIDED OPPORTUNITIES HERE.
WE VALUE REHABILITATION,
AFTER ALL.



AND
THE PAYMENT,
YES?



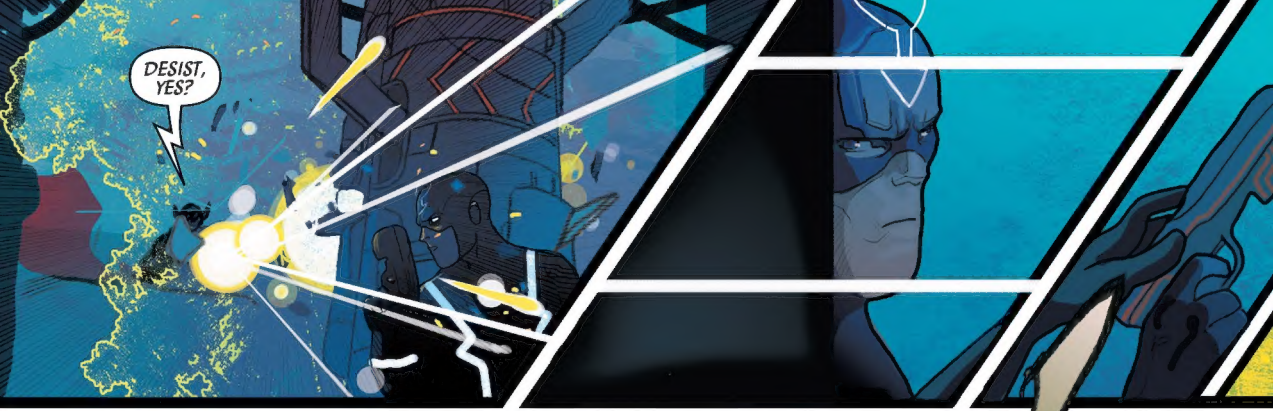
YES, OF
COURSE, MISTER
DEATH'S HEAD. THE
REGISTRATION AND
TRANSFER OF CREDITS
SHOULD ONLY
TAKE A FEW
MOMENTS.

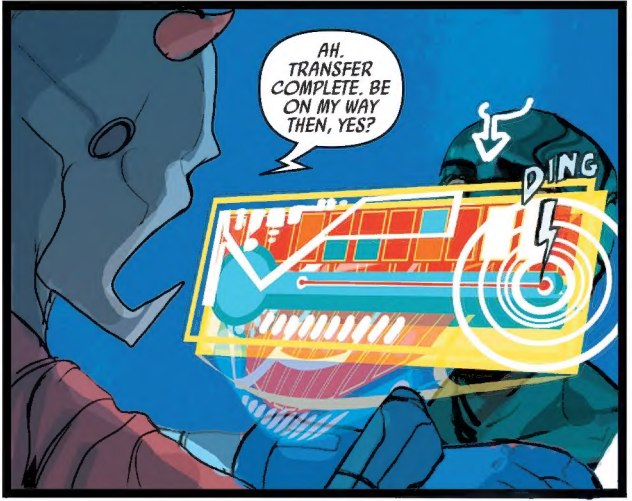


IN THE
MEANTIME,
WE--









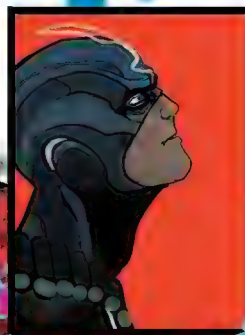




DAMN
THIS FEELS GOOD!
I COULD KISS YOU
BASTARDS RIGHT
NOW.



THAT'S
WHAT I'M TALKING
ABOUT!



YOU HAVE
FACED SKRULLS
BEFORE, SKINNY
ONE.

YOU WONDER
WHY RAAVA DOES NOT
SHIFT HER SHAPE? BECAUSE RAAVA
LOVES HER SHAPE AND NEVER LEARNED
TO CHANGE IT. BECAUSE RAAVA LOVES
HER FACE AND NEVER LEARNED
TO CHANGE IT.



WHEN RAAVA
KILLS A MAN,
HE KNOWS IT WAS
RAAVA WHO
KILLED HIM.

RAAVA
DOES NOT
CHANGE HER SHAPE.
BUT SHE HAS
THESE.





RAAVA'S RIGHT HAND HOLDS ANGRY DAUGHTER. HER LEFT HAND HOLDS HUNGRY SON. FORGED FROM RAAVA'S FURY, TEMPERED BY RAAVA'S WILL.

WITH THESE, RAAVA WILL CUT DOWN ANY WHO STAND IN HER WAY!

LIKE I SAID, MOTIVATIONAL.



YOU'RE WONDERING WHAT MY POWERS ARE? SIZING UP THE TEAM? WELL, I DON'T KNOW HOW MUCH HELP I'M GOING TO BE.



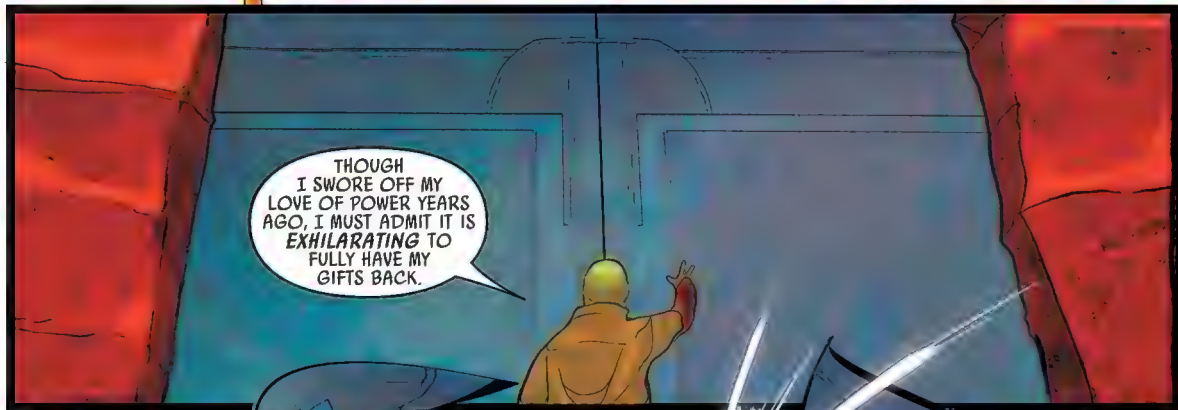
MY INNER EYE CAN HELP GUIDE US, BUT I'M NOT MUCH USE IN A FIGHT.



WHAT?! NO! I DON'T WANT THIS. I... I DON'T WANT TO HURT ANYONE. I--



SIGH FINE. I DON'T WANT ONE OF YOU TO GET HURT BECAUSE I COULDN'T DO ANYTHING.



THOUGH I SWORE OFF MY LOVE OF POWER YEARS AGO, I MUST ADMIT IT IS EXHILARATING TO FULLY HAVE MY GIFTS BACK.

BOOM

NOW LET US SEE WHERE... OH, DEAR.

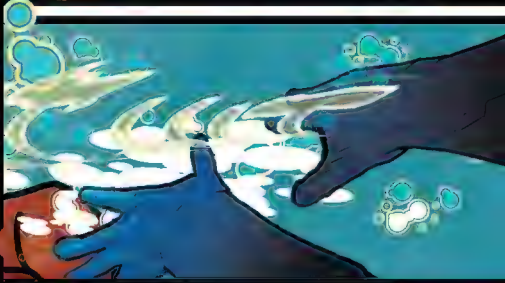
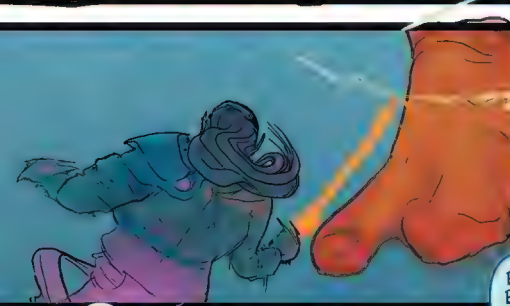
GRAAA
AA
A
AK
AK
AK

WHAT
IN THE--

STARS
PRESERVE
US.

WHOOOM







THEY TOOK ME FROM MY PARENTS. THEY CALLED ME "MONTEROSO," BUT THAT'S NOT MY NAME. THEY SAID I HAD TO BE PUNISHED...

HEY. HEY. DON'T WORRY. WE'RE GETTING OUT OF HERE, OKAY? WE'RE GOING TO STOP THE MONSTER WHO DID THIS. WE'LL...WE'LL HELP YOU FIND YOUR PARENTS. SOMEHOW.

I KNOW. I'M SCARED, TOO. BUT IT'S OKAY NOW.

YOU STAY HERE AND WAIT FOR US. WE'LL BE BACK VERY, VERY SOON. WE WON'T LET ANYONE ELSE HURT YOU...

I'M SCARED.



...I SWEAR IT BY THE LADY.



DO YOU UNDERSTAND NOW, YOU GUYS? HE'S A...A KID. I THINK HE'S YOUNGER THAN ME.

WE UNDERSTAND, CHILD.

WE GOT YOU, KID. AND YOU AIN'T GOTTA SAY A WORD, WISHBONE. I KNOW WE'RE ON THE SAME PAGE HERE. THIS PLACE NEEDS TO GET SHUT DOWN. **HARD.**



YES. THIS PLACE WILL BE A SMOKING RUIN WHEN RAAVA HAS LEFT IT. BUT THIS JAILER IS POWERFUL. AND A CREATURE SUCH AS THIS WOULD BE A MIGHTY ALLY. CHILD, DO YOU THINK YOU COULD CONVINCE THE CREATURE TO FIGHT WITH--

WHAT? ARE YOU SICK? **NO!** NO, I WON'T DO IT. HE'S JUST A KID.

HE IS A PRISONER HERE, TOO. AND HE COULD KNOCK DOWN THESE WALLS IF--

I SAID NO!



VERY WELL.

THE PLAN HASN'T CHANGED. WE NEED TO FIND THIS DIRTBAG. LET'S KEEP MOVIN'.

YOU DO NOT SULK OFTEN, MY DEAR. AND IF I MAY SAY, SULKING DOES NOT BECOME A WARRIOR OF YOUR STATURE.

YOU KNOW RAAVA IS RIGHT, OLD MAN. WE SHOULD HAVE FORCED THAT CREATURE TO JOIN US. WE NEED THAT POWER.

AT WHAT COST? ENSLAVING A CHILD? THAT IS A DARK SORT OF POWER, RAAVA THE UN-SKRULLED.

I HAD IT ONCE MYSELF. I FELL IN LOVE WITH CONQUEST. IT COST ME EVERYTHING. MY HOME. THE MAN I LOVED. CHASING POWER CAN LEAD YOU OFF A CLIFF, MY DEAR.

RAAVA IS NOT YOUR DEAR, OLD MAN. AND YOU FORGET THAT RAAVA CAN FLY.

HE'S CLOSE, YOU GUYS. THE LIGHT FROM HIS POWER IS STARTING TO HURT MY INNER EYE.

I'VE NEVER DONE ANYTHING LIKE THIS. BACK HOME IN THE SIX HUNDRED BAZAARS, I USED MY EYE TO SCOPE OUT MARKS. WHAT THEY HAD IN THEIR POCKETS, WHICH ONES WOULD BEAT YOU UP.

THIS IS A LOT SCARIER.

WHAT ARE THESE TUBES RUNNING ALONG THE WALLS?

THEY APPEAR TO BE SOME SORT OF POWER CONDUIT.

YEAH, YOU'RE RIGHT. AND THEY LEAD...

...HERE. WOW.

WHAT IS THAT THING?

CYLINDER... PISTONS... I'LL BE DAMNED. IT'S... IT'S A COMBUSTION ENGINE. POWERING SOMETHING BIG. MAYBE THIS WHOLE PLACE.

HEY, DON'T LOOK SO SURPRISED THAT THE BIG GORILLA KNOWS SOME THINGS. MY OLD MAN WAS A MECHANIC. SEE, THAT THERE IS BRINGING FUEL TO THE ENGINE FROM--

--OH MY GOD.



FROM
US. FROM THE
CONDEMNED.

OH, NO.

HE'S BEEN
HARNESSING
OUR PAIN.

OUR
DEATHS.

NO LONGER.
DO YOU HEAR ME,
CREATURE? NO LONGER!
NO LONGER WILL YOU
FEED ON OUR
ANGUISH!

AAAAGGGHHH
IT HURTS! LIKE
A THOUSAND MINDS
IN MY SKULL. HE'S
CLOSE. HE...
HE...

LADY
WATCH OVER ME.
HE'S HERE.

**PENANCE! PENANCE IN
DEATH FOR YOUR CRIMES
AND VIOLATIONS!**

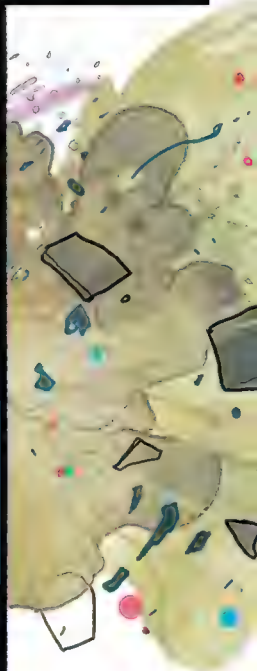
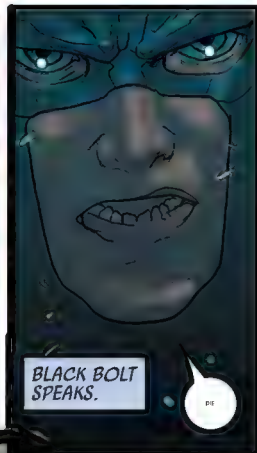
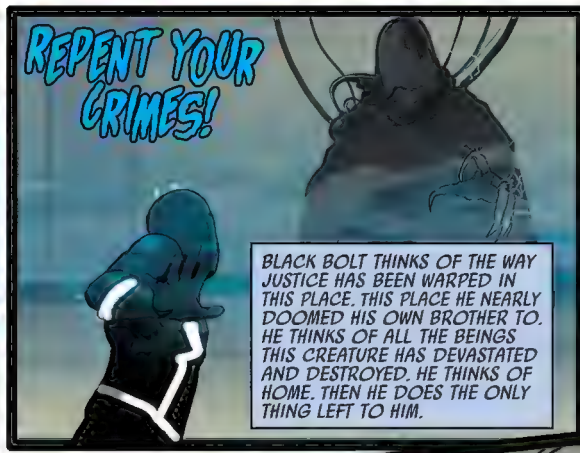
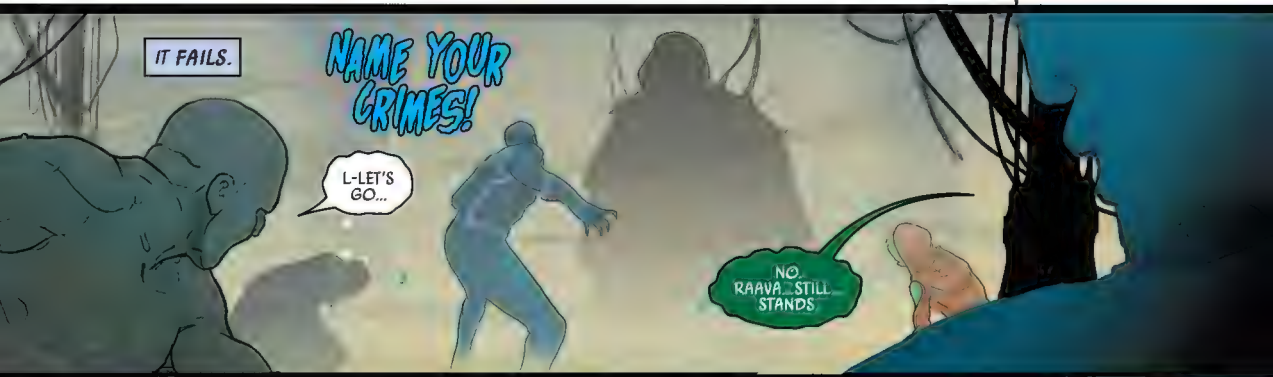


SCREW
THAT, YOU FREAK!
WASTE HIM!

PENANCE!

BLACK BOLT'S EVERY NERVE
IS AFLAME WITH PAIN. HE
KNOWS HE WILL ONLY HAVE
ONE CHANCE. HE FOCUSES HIS
ENTIRE BEING INTO ONE STRIKE--

THE MASTER
BLOW!



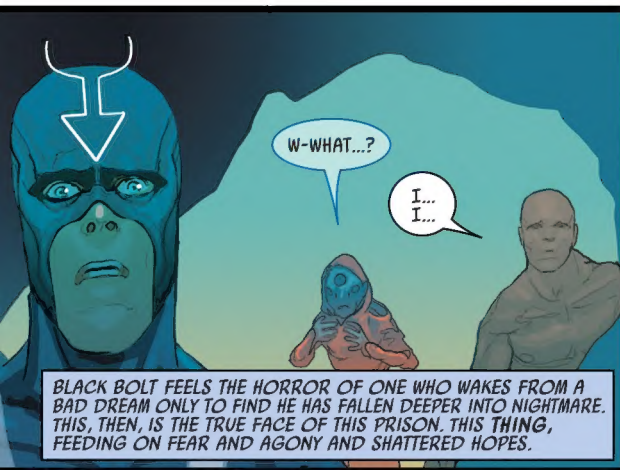
THEY CAN TAKE NO CHANCES. BLACK BOLT STEPS FORWARD...



...AND THE MIDNIGHT KING, WHO LONG AGO LEARNED TO BANISH FEAR FROM HIS HEART...

...IS AFRAID.





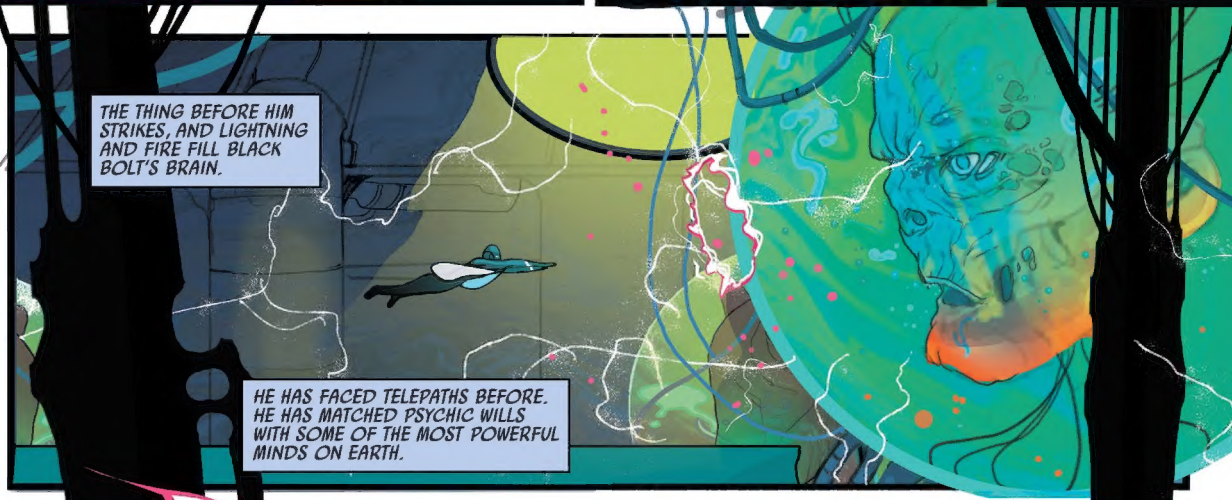
BLACK BOLT FEELS THE HORROR OF ONE WHO WAKES FROM A BAD DREAM ONLY TO FIND HE HAS FALLEN DEEPER INTO NIGHTMARE. THIS, THEN, IS THE TRUE FACE OF THIS PRISON. THIS THING, FEEDING ON FEAR AND AGONY AND SHATTERED HOPES.



BUT HIS TERROR LASTS ONLY A MOMENT. BESIDE HIM, BLACK BOLT HEARS THE VOICES OF THE WOUNDED AND THE VULNERABLE. AND HE MOVES TO PROTECT THEM.



HE IS A KING. IT IS HIS DUTY.



THE THING BEFORE HIM STRIKES, AND LIGHTNING AND FIRE FILL BLACK BOLT'S BRAIN.

HE HAS FACED TELEPATHS BEFORE. HE HAS MATCHED PSYCHIC WILLS WITH SOME OF THE MOST POWERFUL MINDS ON EARTH.



THIS IS DIFFERENT.



BLACK BOLT FEELS HIS MIND BEING BURNED AWAY.



TOO LATE, HE TRIES TO SCREAM.

TO BE CONTINUED...

SOUND OFF!

We want to hear from you! Send your emails to mheroes@marvel.com and please mark them "OKAY TO PRINT."

Well, that doesn't look good. You can bet the Jailer is going to be out for revenge after this. And with Black Bolt at his mercy, what kind of penance will he cook up next--and who will survive it? I hope you're ready for a heartbreaker, because next issue is gonna pull all those strings.

We were short on time this month, but your writer extraordinaire Saladin Ahmed sat down to respond to two of his favorite letters.

To Saladin Ahmed and Christian Ward,

After hearing how great BLACK BOLT #1 is, I headed over to Aw Yeah! Comics in Harrison, NY and picked up the last copy they had on the shelf. It's absolutely incredible! The scope of the story, the feeling of isolation, the use of color, and so much more. This is possibly the best portrayal I've seen of Black Bolt since Paul Jenkins and Jae Lee's Marvel Knights Inhuman's run.

I wanted to ask what influenced you in your portrayal of Black Bolt in this series and how you came to decide on having an antagonist who's always shouting and repeating himself, as Black Bolt is always silent or carefully soft spoken.

Thanks so much!

Joe Corallo

SALADIN: Thanks, Joe! I'm a writer, so I think a lot about the power of words. The contrast between Black Bolt's usual silence and the various voices he encounters in this mysterious prison--the Jailer's, Crusher's, others--is certainly something of a theme in the book. The question is: Who will have the last word?

I really enjoyed issue #1 of BLACK BOLT! Blackagar Boltagon has become one of my favorite characters in the Marvel Universe, and I'm excited for a title that focuses on him! Despite how much I enjoyed the issue, however, it was your personal note

at the end of issue #1 that sold me on the series, Mr. Ahmed--especially the last and most important question you said comics can ask. ;) Knowing that the writer has a personal connection to Marvel, especially expressed in such a warm and entertaining way, makes me that much more invested. I appreciate your work so far (and your whole team), and look forward to more!

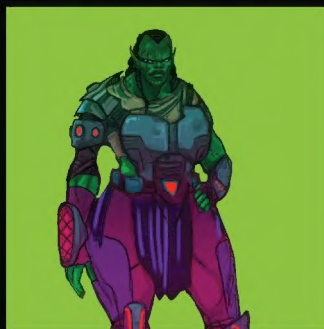
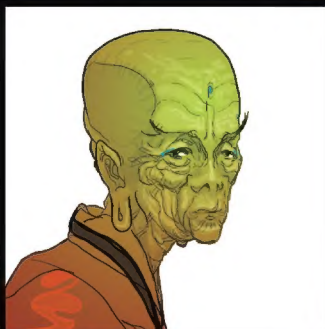
All the best,

Danny Rivera
The Bronx, NY

SALADIN: Thank you so much, Danny. Crusher sends much love to the Bronx, his home borough!

Don't let up--we want to hear every word of love for BLACK BOLT! And to keep you salivating, check out Christian Ward's wild character designs!

See you next time,
Sarah



NEXT:

BLACK BOLT

#4



FOR MORE
INHUMANS,
CHECK OUT:



SECRET WARRIORS #4



ROYALS #5



INHUMANS: ONCE AND FUTURE
KINGS #1

• Tour •
THE SEVEN SEAS

With

**BLACK MANTA
EMPIRE**



Call 555-FISH